



# PRESS RELEASE

United States Bankruptcy Court  
For the Western District of Tennessee

November 19, 2003

Contact:

Jed G. Weintraub, Clerk  
(901) 328-3500  
[cmecfquestions@tnwb.uscourts.gov](mailto:cmecfquestions@tnwb.uscourts.gov)

## **Bankruptcy Court for Western District of Tennessee Implements Electronic Filing**

Effective December 15, 2003, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee will begin accepting filings from trained users in all chapters under the Bankruptcy Code and all case types electronically via the Internet. The new electronic case filing system (ECF) will allow filers to take advantage of new advances in technology in order to greatly reduce the time necessary to file documents with the Court and actually increase the availability of information to the public.

According to Jed G. Weintraub, Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court, electronic filing offers numerous advantages for the filing practitioner. "The elimination of the necessity to travel to the Clerk's Office to file documents, frees attorneys and others from many existing financial and procedural burdens. For example, documents may be filed or viewed from any location with Internet access, 24 hours per day, alleviating the need for last-minute travel to the Clerk's Office to file or view documents." The practitioner and public also are no longer at the mercy of conditions beyond their control, such as natural disasters or inclement weather. Adds Mr. Weintraub, "With backup file servers located at secure locations outside of the Mid-South, even a major disaster will not significantly impair the ability of the Clerk's Office to function and serve the public." Noticing from the existing Bankruptcy Noticing Center will also be augmented by e-mail service of documents, providing near-instantaneous notification to interested parties with access to the Internet.

Preparatory work for the acceptance of electronically filed documents began within the Clerk's Office in October, 2001. Since then, chambers and Clerk's Office staff have worked to ensure a smooth transition to a more 'paperless' environment. Documentation and training classes for external constituents have been developed and refined by drawing from the experience of other federal courts using electronic filing. Attorney and creditor filers not utilizing the Internet for filing will be able to file traditional paper documents or documents saved as PDF files until January 12, 2004.

(For more information on ECF, please go to the Court's web site at [www.tnwb.uscourts.gov](http://www.tnwb.uscourts.gov))